

**REMARKS**

Applicants request entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants have amended the claims to remove multiple dependencies. Applicants submit that these amendments do not raise any issues of new matter.

**Summary**

Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: October 20, 2004



Katherine M. Kowalchyk  
Reg. No. 36,848  
KMK:sab

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE